

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 42

"An Act To Prohibit the Use of Rubber Lures for Fishing"

SPONSORED BY: Representative PAUL DAVIS of Sangerville

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Michael Brown, Fisheries Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against **L.D. 42.**

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife supports the intent of this bill.

The effects of rubber bait have been an area of concern for the Department for several years. The Department has conducted studies looking at the effects of rubber bait ingestion and issued press releases to make anglers and retailers aware of the potential for harmful effects of rubber lures.

However, it is important to note that identifying which lures are made of rubber versus soft plastics or other materials may be very difficult to determine in the field. At this time the Department's Warden Service will not be able to distinguish between the types of materials used in the construction of a particular fishing lure. The materials to construct fishing lures may be made completely or partially from rubber.

Currently, consumers do not have adequate information they need to make an informed purchase when they select fishing tackle at a conventional store or on-line. Often the materials that comprise the makeup or construction of fishing tackle are not listed on the packaging.

The Department is currently reviewing the definition of artificial lures due to changes in manufacturing and marketing techniques that have made distinguishing natural and artificial baits and lures very difficult. Due to the limited information provided in this bill my comments are minimal.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time.